

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM  
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5074  
Minority (202) 225-5051

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERALISM AND THE CENSUS  
Congressman Michael R. Turner, Chairman



**OVERSIGHT HEARING**  
**STATEMENT BY MICHAEL R. TURNER, CHAIRMAN**

Hearing topic: *2 + 2 Should Never Equal 3: Getting Intercensal Population Estimates Right the First Time.*

**Wednesday, September 6, 2006**  
**2:00 PM**  
**2247 Rayburn House Office Building**

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**OPENING STATEMENT**

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Welcome to the Subcommittee's hearing entitled, "*2 + 2 Should Never Equal 3: Getting Intercensal Population Estimates Right the First Time.*" This is the fifth in a series of hearings on Census Bureau programs and will examine the Bureau's intercensal population estimates program.

Intercensal population estimates are vital to the accurate allocation of hundreds of billions of dollars by elected officials and government program managers. Unfortunately, intercensal estimates are often inaccurate. Washington D.C. for example, has disputed the Bureau's estimates every year since 2002 and, as noted in a July 22, 2006 Washington Post article, the Bureau recently acknowledged that they had missed about 6% of the D.C.'s population.

Cities, counties and States can challenge the Bureau's estimates and have done so 91 times since Census 2000. However, I am concerned that numerous others local governments may not have the resources or expertise necessary to challenge the estimates or are unaware of the opportunity to challenge. These governmental units therefore live with what may be inaccurate estimates and thus inaccurate federal funding allocations.

During this hearing, we will examine:

- whether the Bureau's methodology results in reasonably accurate estimates and equitable allocation of federal grants,
- the importance of accuracy,
- opportunities for improving the estimates,
- whether the Bureau's challenge process is transparent, fair, and takes into account a community's ability to challenge, and
- whether the Bureau strives to continuously improve the estimates.

We have several witnesses today to help the Subcommittee examine these issues.

We will hear from the Honorable Charles Louis Kincannon, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau on the first panel.

We will then hear from four witnesses on our second panel today including Dr. David Swanson, Director of the State Data Center of Mississippi and professor at the University of Mississippi. Joining Dr. Swanson are Dr. Joy Phillips, Associate Director of the Washington, DC Data Center and Ken Hodges, Assistant Vice President and Chief Demographer for Claritas Incorporated. Finally we will hear from Dr. Warren Brown, Research Director of the Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research at Cornell University.

I look forward to the expert testimony of our panelists here today. Thank you for your time and welcome.

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